

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. - 17 (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A convertible vehicle comprising:
a carbody having a rear top compartment with a top compartment lid;
a retractable top connected to the carbody and stowed in an open position of the retractable top in the rear top compartment, wherein the retractable top has a back bow placed at least partially onto the top compartment lid in a closed position of the top;
at least one locking device for securing the back bow and the top compartment lid to one another, wherein the at least one locking device comprises a connecting member provided on the back bow and a counter member provided on the top compartment lid below a through opening of the top compartment lid;
at least one flap part provided at the through opening;
wherein the at least one flap part is movable by the connecting member from a closed position into an open position;
a switching member cooperating with the at least one flap part;
wherein the connecting member has at least two support legs and wherein the at least two support legs define a receiving slot therebetween;
wherein the counter member engages the receiving slot at least partially positive-lockingly ~~the receiving slot~~.

19. (previously presented) The convertible vehicle according to claim 18, wherein the at least two support legs are arranged substantially parallel to a longitudinal center plane of the convertible vehicle and mirror-symmetrical at a spacing to a longitudinal center plane of the at least one locking device, wherein the counter member extends along the longitudinal center plane for engaging the receiving slot.

20. (previously presented) The convertible vehicle according to claim 18, comprising two of the at least one locking device in a connecting area between the top compartment lid and the back bow, wherein said two locking devices are positioned opposite one another substantially mirror-symmetrically to the longitudinal center plane of the convertible vehicle.

21. (previously presented) The convertible vehicle according to claim 18, wherein the at least two support legs and the counter member define a support connection

that receives movements of at least one of the back bow and the top compartment lid, which movements are effective in at least one of a transverse direction and a longitudinal direction relative to the longitudinal center plane of the convertible vehicle.

22. (currently amended) A locking device for a convertible vehicle; according to 18 which convertible vehicle comprises a carbody having a rear top compartment with a top compartment lid; a retractable top connected to the carbody and stowed in an open position of the retractable top in the rear top compartment, wherein the retractable top has a back bow placed at least partially onto the top compartment lid in a closed position of the top; wherein the locking device secures [[a]] the back bow and [[a]] the compartment lid to one another, the locking device comprising:

a connecting member provided on the back bow; ~~and~~

a counter member provided on the top compartment lid below a through opening of the top compartment lid;

wherein the connecting member has at least two support legs and wherein the at least two support legs define a receiving slot therebetween;

wherein the counter member engages the receiving slot at least partially positive-lockingly ~~the receiving slot~~; and

wherein the at least two support legs rest with substantially identical length against the counter member.

23. (previously presented) The locking device according to claim 22, wherein the at least two support legs are connected to one another by at least one transverse stay and the counter member has a receiving depression into which receiving depression the transverse stay is inserted.

24. (currently amended) The locking device according to claim 23, wherein the at least two support legs have free ends, respectively, that are provided with a support projection resting laterally against the counter member.

25. (currently amended) The locking device according to claim 24, wherein the at least two support legs are connected to one another by the transverse stay in the area of the ~~two~~ support projections.

26. (currently amended) The locking device according to claim 22, wherein the support projections are roller-shaped and have a peripheral contour that projects past

end faces of the at least two support legs.

27. (currently amended) The locking device according to claim 22, wherein the counter member is provided on a support frame having a central shaped recess as a receiving opening, wherein the support frame is secured on the top compartment lid below ~~[[a]]~~ the through opening on the top compartment lid.

28. (currently amended) The locking device according to claim 27, wherein, in the area of the receiving opening, the support frame is provided ~~in the area of the receiving opening~~ with two flap parts having a support axle, respectively, that extends parallel to a longitudinal center plane of the locking device.

29. (currently amended) The locking device according to claim 28, wherein the two flap parts are secured in opposing closed position at the upper edge area of the counter member and are transferable from the closed position into an open position by pivoting downwardly when acted upon by the at least two support legs provided on the back bow.

30. (previously presented) The locking device according to claim 29, wherein the two flap parts have opposed peripheral contours in the closed position and the opposed peripheral contours each have a shaped recess for receiving partially the counter member.

31. (previously presented) The locking device according to claim 29, wherein the two flap parts each have a support axle and a restoring spring arranged at an underside of the two flap parts, respectively, wherein the restoring springs surround the support axles, respectively, and are supported on the support frame.

32. (previously presented) The locking device according to claim 28, wherein at least one of the two flap parts has a back provided with a sensing lever, wherein the sensing lever is positioned, when the two flap parts are pivoted into the open position, on an electric switching member so as to provide electric contact.

33. (previously presented) The locking device according to claim 32, wherein the two flap parts each have a sensing lever.

34. (previously presented) The locking device according to claim 28, wherein the two flap parts each have an adjusting module provided with a movable contact part, wherein the closed position of the two flap parts is adjustable, respectively, by adjusting

the movable contact part.